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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DINT-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W			

-----CE6548 221034Z /38

FM AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6540  
INFO AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS HO CHI MINH CITY 000728

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/BCLTV AND EAP/PD/KFOSTER  
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR INR/EAP/SEA AND INR/IL/B

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF CENTRAL FATHERLAND  
FRONT COMMITTEE

REF: A. HCMC 0562(01) B. HCMC 0224(01)

[1](#)1. ON JULY 2, MR. HUYNH DAM, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE  
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HCMC PEOPLE'S COUNCIL AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE HCMC  
COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTEE, TOOK OFFICE AS THE NEW  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF VIETNAM'S CENTRAL FATHERLAND FRONT

SIPDIS  
COMMITTEE, FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF FORMER SECRETARY  
GENERAL TRAN VAN DANG.

[1](#)2. HUYNH DAM, WHO TURNED 53 IN DECEMBER 2001, WAS BORN  
IN CA MAU, VIETNAM'S SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCE, AND HOLDS  
THREE BA DEGREES - IN ECONOMICS, LAW, AND POLITICS.  
DAM FIRST BECAME A MEMBER OF THE HCMC PARTY COMMITTEE  
IN 1995. IN JANUARY 1998, HE BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE HCMC PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. HE WON ELECTION TO THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE SAME YEAR. IN FEBRUARY 2000, DAM  
REPLACED TRUONG TAN SANG AS HEAD OF THE HCMC NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY DELEGATION. SINCE 1998, DAM'S PHOTOGRAPH HAS  
APPEARED REGULARLY ON THE FRONT PAGE OF HCMC  
NEWSPAPERS. WHEN THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE HCMC  
PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE BECAME VACANT IN MAY 2001, POST  
REPORTED THAT DAM ONE OF THE FRONT-RUNNERS (SEE  
REFTELS). THE JOB ULTIMATELY WENT TO THE INCUMBENT  
FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE.

[1](#)3. IN MEETINGS WITH CONGENOFFS, DAM HAS GIVEN THE  
IMPRESSION OF BEING A MODERATE. HE SUPPORTS PRIVATE  
SECTOR GROWTH AS NECESSARY TO A MODERN SOCIETY, BUT  
MAINTAINS THAT REGULATING PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH AND  
CREATING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO DO BUSINESS  
ARE LEGITIMATE ROLES FOR THE GOVERNMENT. IN HIS NEW  
POSITION, DAM WILL WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTY'S  
GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS - THE WOMEN'S UNION, FARMERS'  
ASSOCIATION, YOUTH UNION, AND LABOR UNION ALL FALL  
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UNDER THE FATHERLAND FRONT UMBRELLA. AS BOTH THE  
RECIPIENT AGENCY FOR CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS AND A  
SUPERVISORY BODY FOR OTHER STATE AND PARTY AGENCIES,  
THE FATHERLAND FRONT ALSO PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE  
FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.  
YAMAUCHI

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